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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

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7 November 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

VIA: Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Charles E. Allen  
National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism  
and Narcotics

SUBJECT: NIC Staff Meetings

1. I agree with other NIOs that the NIC staff meeting on Tuesday morning might more fruitfully be used for substantive exchanges rather than having each NIO report on whom he has briefed, what meetings he has attended, or where he stands on a particular paper. I also see the Tuesday meeting as a forum for you or Herb to inform the NIOs of sensitive, close hold developments. For example, the background you provided this week on  the Soviet Union was highly useful.

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2. I would like to see our Tuesday mornings be used as a forum where NIOs can air--on a not for attribution basis--complex or controversial issues. An NIO either by himself or in conjunction with other NIOs, could lead a discussion on specific issues, particularly those that cut across geographic or functional areas. After perhaps a brief opening statement, all NIOs would be encouraged to comment, ask questions, or challenge the judgments presented.

3. NIOs have too little time to exchange views with each other. For example, Graham Fuller and I try to see each other frequently, but the press of daily business tends to get in the way of our discussing Middle East developments where terrorism is an important factor. Similarly, I have all too frequently failed to discuss terrorist issues with other key regional NIOs like Vickers and Wattering. Healthy, spirited discussions on specific issues for half an hour every Tuesday morning could, in my view, promote both understanding and collegiality. If we orchestrate such meetings properly and keep them sharply focused, all NIOs both regional and functional could benefit from this exercise.

  
Charles E. Allen



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